

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 716

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Joseph and Odette Novak upon their induction into the Pickett Care and Rehab Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause in their deliberations to salute those citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, two such noteworthy people are Joseph and Odette Novak, who were recently inducted into the Pickett Care and Rehab Hall of Fame, which recognizes “Hometown Heroes” for their dedication to helping others; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of a French Military Captain, Odette Bodot Novak was only thirteen years old when the Nazis occupied her hometown of Paris on June 14, 1940; and

WHEREAS, a native of Wausau, Wisconsin, Joseph Novak honorably answered the call to military service in January of 1944 and served with the courage and conviction of a true patriot as a member of the United States Army throughout World War II; and

WHEREAS, two months after D-Day, a young Sergeant Novak was assigned to the 195th General Hospital Unit in Paris as a Technician, 4th Grade, in which position he performed his duties with uncommon devotion and the utmost skill, masterfully overseeing the removal of wounded warriors from the hospital trains; and

WHEREAS, after Germany surrendered on May 4, 1945, Odette Novak worked assiduously for her country, locating and bringing soldiers home from war-torn Europe, while Joseph Novak and his unit carefully and competently transported wounded German Prisoners of War back to Germany; and

WHEREAS, on a fateful January afternoon in 1945, the pair first locked eyes at a train station café in Paris, and four months later, the loving couple was joined in holy matrimony; and

WHEREAS, following the war, the newlyweds returned to the United States and made their home in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, before taking a much deserved retirement in 1985, Mr. Novak devoted thirty-nine years of service to the Crestline Window Company, rising from an employee on the manufacturing floor to eventually become a prominent Quality Control Manager; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Novak touched the lives of generations of citizens during her tenure as a French teacher at an elementary school, always encouraging her students to succeed in life as well as in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, strongly committed to community and public service, Odette Novak has endeavored to serve her fellow citizens through volunteer work with a number of charitable organizations, including faithfully teaching religious services at her local Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, their many accomplishments aside, the Novaks are most grateful for the love and support they have been able to share with each other for the past sixty-five years, and they are especially proud of their four extraordinary children; and

WHEREAS, the Novaks epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure upon the dedication of individuals like Mr. and Mrs. Novak, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Joseph and Odette Novak for their meritorious service to the citizens of the State of Tennessee, congratulate them upon their induction into the Pickett Care and Rehab Hall of Fame, and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.